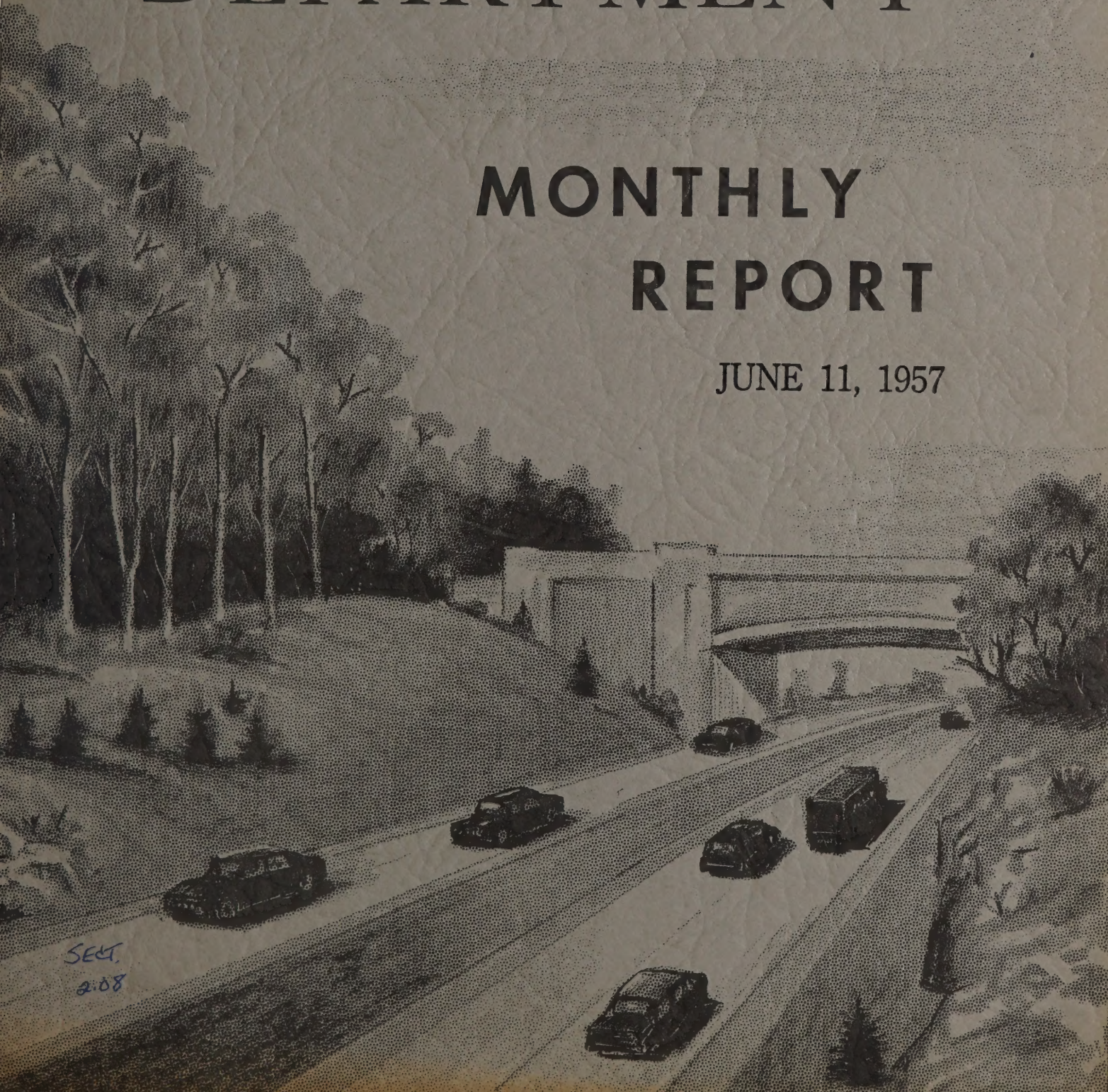


STATE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

MONTHLY REPORT

JUNE 11, 1957



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BERGEN-PASSAIC EXPRESSWAY

Engineering survey crews began field work this month in connection with the proposed alignment of FAI-101 (Route 46 relocation) between the George Washington Bridge and Wayne Township, Passaic County.

The work is being performed to establish exact topographic elevations of identified points on aerial photographs of the general area to be traversed by the Expressway.

Determination of the points to be physically established is based upon their easy and exact identification on the aerial photographs. Once elevations of these points and their exact position are established in relation to the New Jersey Plane Coordinate System, the information will be transferred to aerial photographs and the photographs will then form the basis for developing both construction and right of way plans.

NEW HIGHWAY SECTIONS

Two new sections of state highway were opened during the past month in time to accommodate the Memorial Day week-end traffic. In Trenton, the second section of the East-West Highway was opened with appropriate ceremonies in which Governor Meyner and Mayor Connolly participated. The highway is now complete from Calhoun Street to Aberfeldy Drive.

NEW HIGHWAY SECTIONS, cont'd

The nearly three-mile-long section of what was originally termed the Route 202 Freeway, now a portion of F. A. I. Route 104, was also made available to public traffic use. The section links Routes 10 and U. S. 46 east of Lake Parsippany. It was opened without ceremony.

Each of the new highway sections is of Freeway type construction in that points of access to the roadways are controlled. (See pictures in this report.)

NEW TRAFFIC CIRCLE SIGNS

The first of our recently developed advance warning signs for traffic circles were erected on May 21 at the Princeton and U. S. 130 circles on Route U. S. 1. As fast as they can be turned out additional signs will be erected at all traffic circles throughout the State.

To provide greater motoring safety through increased legibility and easier identification, distinctive design and color were used in the new signs. The signs are 4' x 4' and 3' x 3'. Because motorists have learned to identify warning signs by their diamond shape and yellow color, this combination was selected for the new signs.

Instead of the usual wording "Traffic Circle Ahead", the new signs carry the single word "Circle". To further assist motorists in identifying the signs at a glance, a large black circle is used as a symbol. (See pictures in this report.)

ROUTE MARKERS

Following an extended series of legibility and visibility tests, both at Fernwood and on the road, we have developed a route marker which we believe to be both distinctive and aesthetic. It consists of a cutout shield with white reflecting border and route number on a dark green background. The first of these signs are now being erected on Route U. S. 1 starting at Trenton and proceeding north. (See pictures in this report.)

WEED CONTROL EXPERIMENTS

Small scale experiments last summer in the control of weeds by chemical spraying indicated further and expanded experimentation was warranted before establishing a policy. On the 21-mile stretch of Route U. S. 1 that comprised our test area, the results appeared to be not only elimination of unsightly weed growth, but also a decelerated rate of growth of the grass - with an accompanying decrease in the amount of mowing needed.

During the past month, under supervision of our Maintenance Bureau, we had portions of Routes U. S. 1, Route 23, and Route U. S. 130 given the first of three weed control spray treatments. The total distance covered was about 60 miles. Additional sprayings will be made in early July and August.

WEED CONTROL EXPERIMENTS, cont'd

Further broadening of the experiments was accomplished by including use of another chemical spray around our guard rail posts. This was carried out in an 18-mile stretch of Route 23. The purpose of this spray is to completely eliminate growth of both weeds and grass in these areas where cutting becomes a costly manual operation that draws heavily on our present manpower.

WALT WHITMAN BRIDGE APPROACHES

In conjunction with opening of the Walt Whitman Bridge on May 15, the Department's approaches to the structure were first made available for public traffic use.

These approaches included a distributor roadway that proceeds easterly from the bridge and connects with both U. S. 130 in the Fairview section of Camden County, and with the Black Horse Pike (Route 42) in the same general area. To serve the movement of traffic to the south and from Camden, a portion of the new Route 42 North-South Freeway (Federal Aid Interstate Route 108) between Morgan Boulevard, Camden, on the north, and Route U. S. 130 on the south, was opened.

Surveys of the new traffic patterns set up in the areas by the bridge opening show no unusual difficulty in traffic movement, although at one or two points it will be necessary that modifications in existing facilities be made.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

As scheduled, a public hearing on the proposed alignment of the Middlesex Freeway, a portion of Federal Aid Interstate Route 104 in Middlesex and Somerset Counties was held on May 14. The hearing, at the Metuchen Boro Hall, generated a demand for a subsequent meeting - which was held on May 17 at the same location.

On May 21 a similar public hearing on the alignment of FAI-108 was held at the Delaware Township municipal building, Erlton, for the purpose of discussing alignment of a 10-mile section of the route in Camden and Burlington Counties.

All of the meetings followed much the same pattern, with very little of a constructive nature offered by the attending public. Objections to our proposals generally stemmed from individuals whose properties would be directly affected by the proposed alignments.

NEW JERSEY BANKERS ASSOCIATION

The Highway Commissioner spoke on the subject of New Jersey's economic opportunity under the Federal Highway Program at the New Jersey Bankers Convention in Atlantic City. Reaction of those present and subsequent newspaper coverage would indicate that much good might result from this address.

FEDERAL AID 1956-57 PROGRAM

We are continuing to meet with municipal and county officials on the alignment of Interstate routes and recently we met with the Federal Highway Administrator in Washington. As a result of this meeting we supplied his office with a compilation of our work to date under the Federal Highway Program. A review of our program shows the following disposition of 1956-57 fiscal funds:

Interstate Defense Projects

Contracts in force	\$ 630,250.
Right-of-Way Acquisition	9,650,000.
Engineering Contracts	12,593,300.
Contracts Advertised	2,209,580.
Contracts to be advertised by June 30, 1957	<u>17,750,800.</u>
Total Interstate	\$ 42,833,930.

Primary and Urban

Contracts in force	\$ 15,102,729.
Right-of-Way Acquisition	1,200,000.
Contracts Advertised	6,467,778.
Contracts to be advertised by June 30, 1957	<u>1,333,000.</u>
Total Primary and Urban	\$ 24,103,507

Total Interstate and Defense	\$ 42,833,930.
Total Primary and Urban	<u>24,103,507.</u>

Grand Total \$ 66,937,437.

CONSTRUCTION BIDS RECEIVED

May 14	-	Route U. S. 206, Widening and Resurfacing, Columbus to Chambers Corner, Burlington County.	
	*	<u>Thomas Nicol & Co., Farmingdale</u>	\$ 869,215.40
May 21	-	Route 42 North-South Freeway, Grading and Bridges, Coles Road to Turnerville, Camden and Gloucester Counties.	
	*	<u>Thomas Nicol & Co., Farmingdale</u>	\$2,326,158.49
May 23	-	Route 42 North-South Freeway, Paving, Browning Road to Black Horse Pike, Camden County.	
	*	<u>Franklin Contracting Co., Newark</u>	\$1,621,623.24
June 4	-	Route 52, Reconditioning Bridges between Somers Point and Ocean City, Atlantic & Cape May Counties.	
	*	<u>S.T.G. Construction Co., New York</u>	\$ 277,870.00
June 4	-	Paterson State Teachers College, Paving Parking Areas and Drives, Wayne Twp., Passaic County.	
	*	<u>J. F. Chapman & Sons, Hillside</u>	\$ 93,046.35
June 4	-	Route 38, "Jug Handle" at Marter Avenue Intersection, Mount Laurel Twp., Burling- ton County	
	*	<u>Bancheri Construction Co., Hammonton</u>	\$ 25,469.40

* - Low Bidders.

CONTRACTS AWARDED

May 31 - Route U. S. 206, Widening and Resurfacing,
Columbus to Chambers Corner, Burlington
County.

Thomas Nicol & Co., Farmingdale \$ 869,215.40

June 6 - Route 42 North-South Freeway, Paving,
Browning Road to Black Horse Pike,
Camden County.

Franklin Contracting Co., Newark \$ 1,621,623.24

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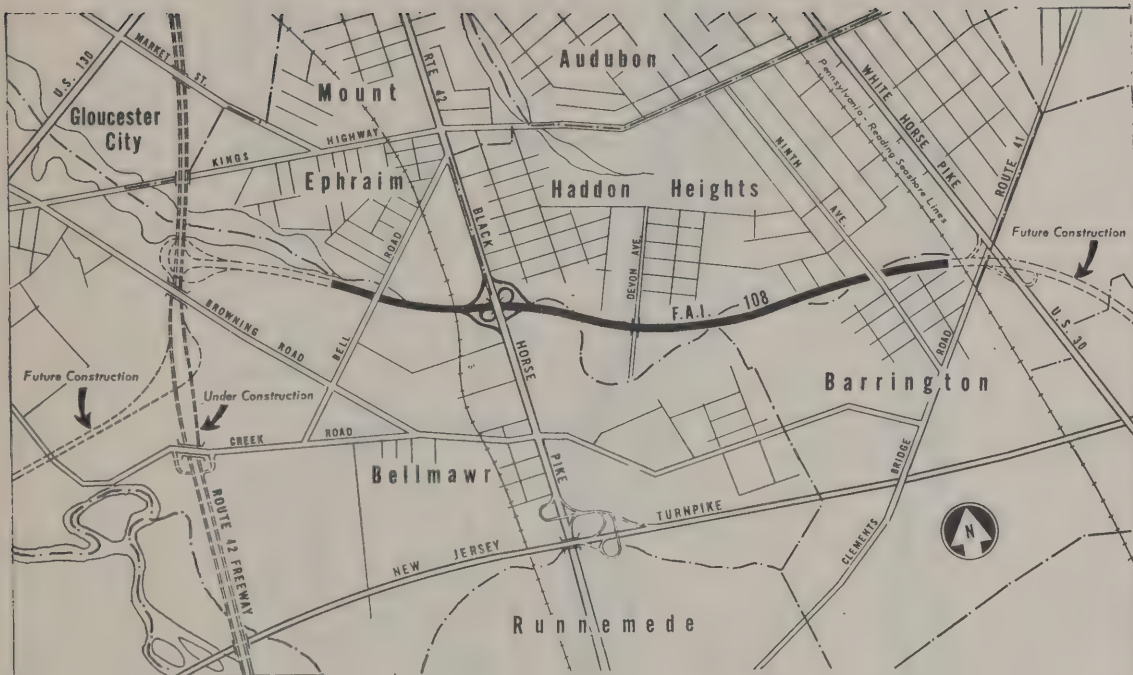
BIDS TO BE RECEIVED AS FOLLOWS:

- June 11 - FAI Route 108, Grading and Bridges in Bellmawr,
Mt. Ephraim, Haddon Heights and Barrington,
Camden County.
- June 11 - Schraalenburgh Road, Reconstruction, Closter and
Harrington Park, Bergen County Federal Aid Second-
ary Project.
- June 11 - Forest Avenue Bridge Widening at Route 4, Paramus,
Bergen County Federal Aid Secondary Project.
- June 13 - Route 21 Freeway, Grading & Paving, Williams Street
to Roosevelt Avenue, Belleville, Essex County.
- June 13 - Ridgedale Ave. and Park Ave. Intersections with
Columbia Turnpike, Morris and Hanover Twps., Morris
County Federal Aid Secondary Project.
- June 18 - Main Road, Grading, Drainage & Paving, Vineland,
Cumberland County Federal Aid Secondary Project.
- June 18 - Route 41 Bridge over South Branch Pennsauken Creek,
Delaware & Maple Shade Twps., Camden and Burlington
Counties Federal Aid Secondary Project.
- June 18 - Garden State Parkway, Protective Fencing on 14 bridges,
Middlesex, Union and Somerset Counties.
- June 25 - Middlesex Avenue, Reconstruction, Metuchen, Middlesex
County Federal Aid Secondary Project.
- July 2 - FAI Route 102, Clinton Farms to Route 69, Grading,
Paving & Bridges, Union and Clinton Townships, Hunter-
don County.
- July 2 - Route U. S. 130, Northwest Ramp Connection to Jamesburg
Road, South Brunswick Twp., Middlesex County.

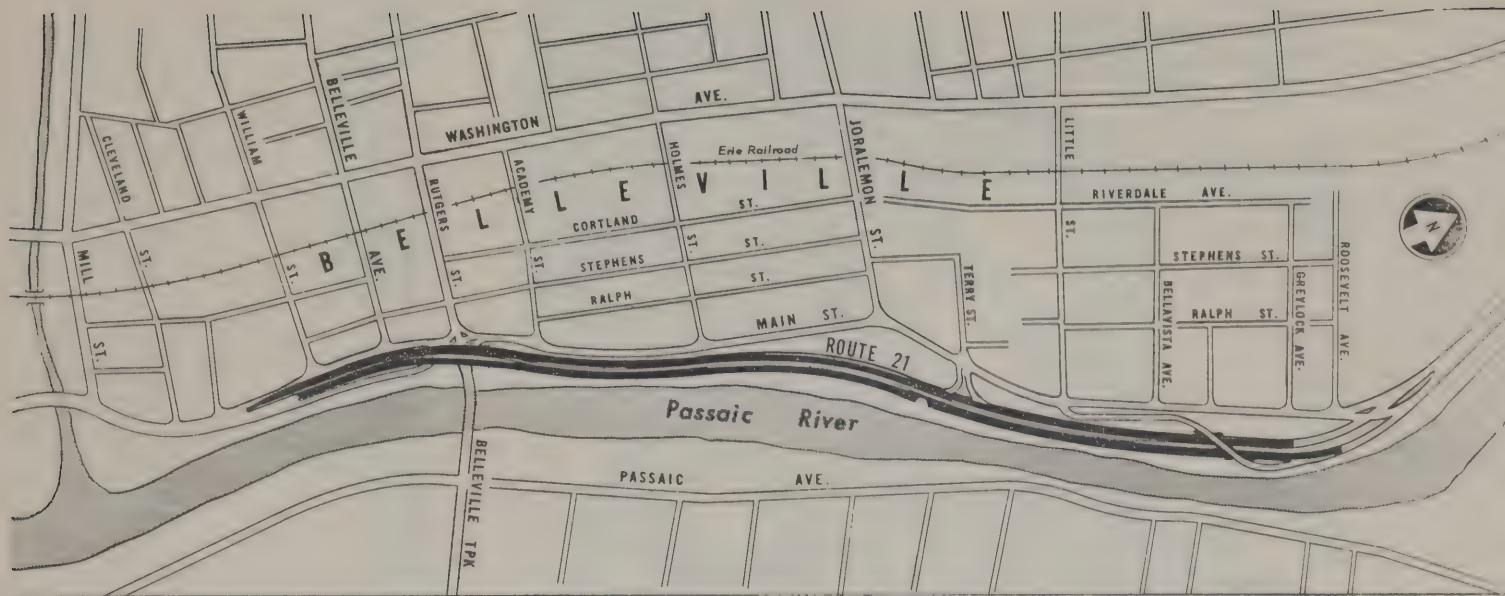
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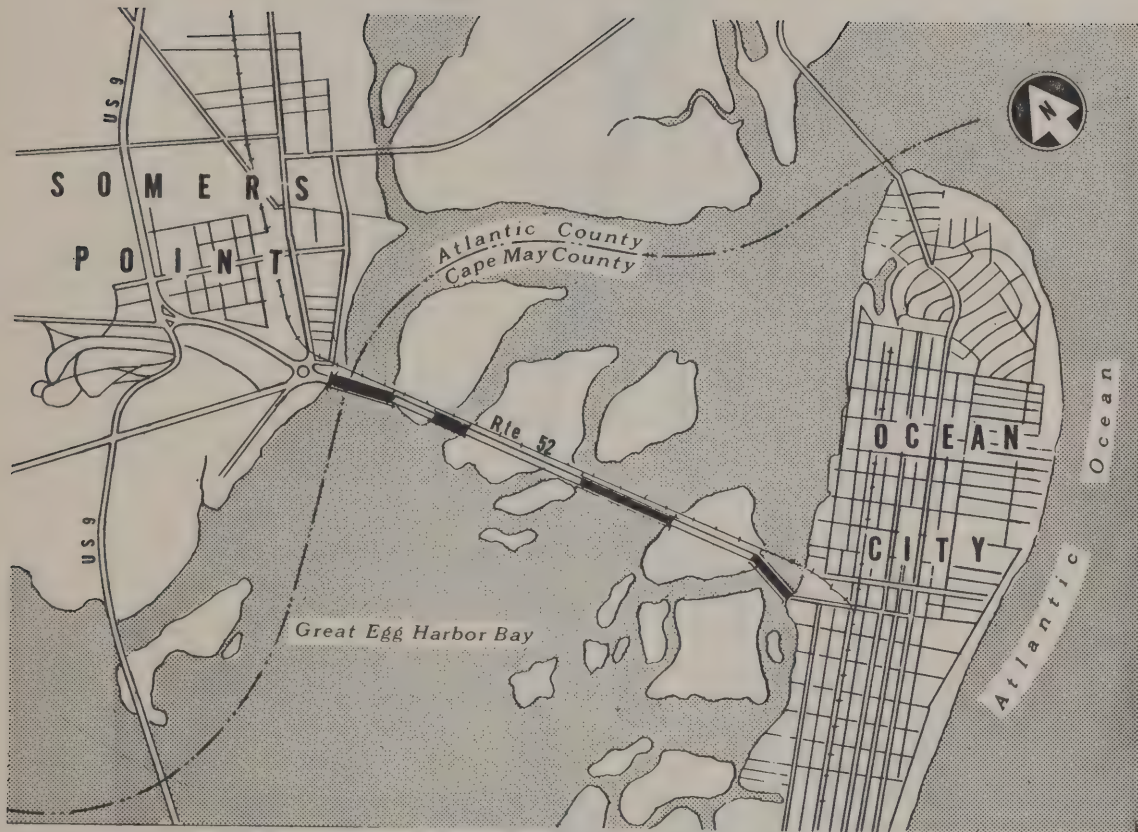
,FAI Route 102, Clinton Farms to Route 69, Hunterdon County. Advertised for construction bids to be received July 2, 1957. This is the so-called Clinton By-Pass.



FAI Route 108 - grading and bridges - in Bellmawr, Mount Ephraim, Haddon Heights, and Barrington, Camden County, advertised for contract, bids June 13, 1957.



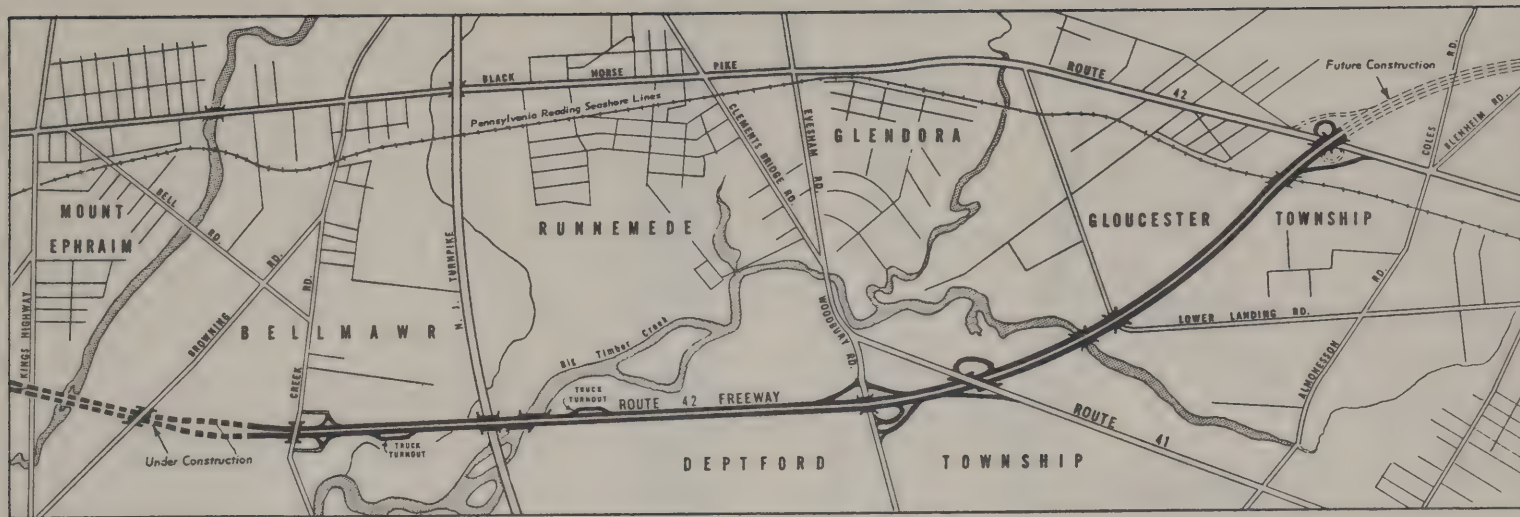
William Street to Roosevelt Avenue, Belleville, Section of
Route 21 Freeway, Advertised for construction bids to be
received June 11, 1957.



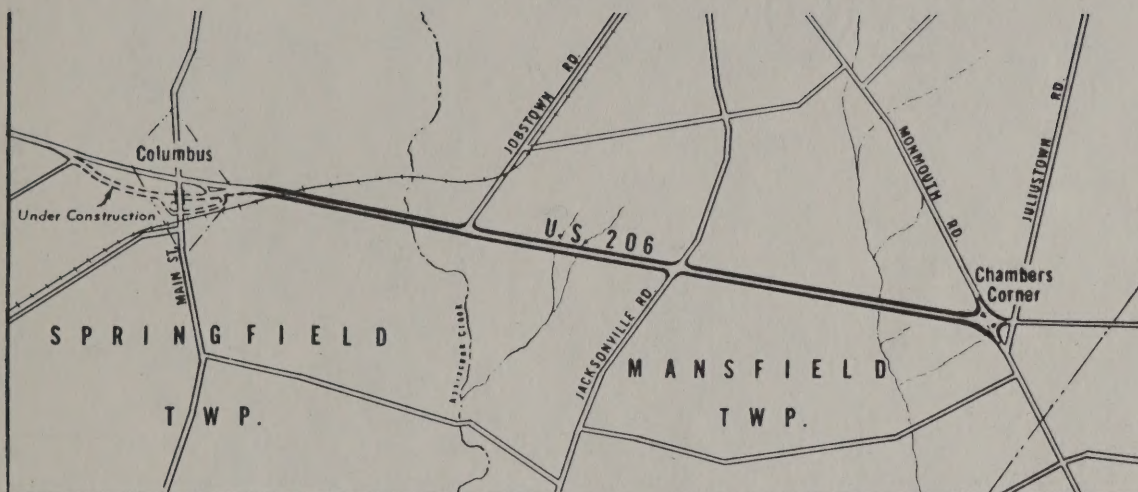
Route 52, Reconditioning bridges between Somers Point and Ocean City, Atlantic and Cape May Counties. Bids received June 4, 1957.



Route 42 North-South Freeway, Grading & Bridges, Coles Road to Turnerville, Camden & Gloucester Counties. Bids received May 21, 1957. This section, when paved, will complete the Camden N-S Freeway from the Walt Whitman Bridge to Turnersville, a distance of approximately 13 miles.



Route 42 Freeway from Bellmawr to the Black Horse Pike, Camden and Gloucester Counties. Bids received May 23 - contract awarded June 6, 1957. This is a paving contract which, when completed, will open 7.5 miles of the Camden N-S Freeway to traffic.



Route U. S. 206, Widening & Resurfacing, Columbus to
Chambers Corner, Burlington County. Construction bids
received May 14, awarded May 31, 1957.

